JMUN 2023

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Discussing avenues to address Marine Pollution in Southeast Asia

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

On behalf of the Executive Board, we want to extend a warm welcome to all the enthusiastic delegates of the GWH JMUN UNEP committee!

We're stoked to have you here and can't wait to witness the incredible discussions and solutions that will emerge from this simulation.

First things first, we want to applaud every one of you for taking part in GWH JMUN 2023. It's no small feat to step up and represent your country, tackling some of the most pressing environmental issues of our time. We are really glad to have you here.

We encourage you to dive headfirst into the committee sessions, participate actively, and engage in healthy debates. Don't be afraid to challenge the status quo, think outside the box, and bring forward your country's unique perspective. Remember, this is a learning experience, and the best ideas often emerge from collaborative efforts and different viewpoints.

While the committee sessions are undoubtedly essential, we also want to emphasize the importance of networking and building connections. Take advantage of the breaks, social events, and informal discussions to interact with your fellow delegates. You'll be amazed at the wealth of knowledge, experiences, and friendships you can gain during this conference.

Finally, don't forget to enjoy yourself! MUN conferences are not just about serious deliberations and negotiations; they're also about having fun, making memories, and forging lasting bonds. So, take a breath, let loose, and embrace the MUN spirit to the fullest.
If you have any questions or need assistance throughout the conference, our team of experienced chairs and organizers is here for you. Feel free to approach any of us, and we'll be more than happy to help.

Once again, welcome to UNEP! Get ready for an exhilarating and enlightening experience that will broaden your horizons and equip you with the skills to make a positive impact on our environment.

Sincerely,
Chairperson: Riana Kapoor [riana024364@greenwoodhigh.edu.in]
Vice Chairperson: Suhani Singh [suhani022478@greenwoodhigh.edu.in]
Moderator: Prishaa Dharmarha [prishaa052416@greenwoodhigh.edu.in]

INTRODUCTION TO UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme is the world's principal environmentally-oriented committee. It deliberates on the severe and evident environmental threats facing the world in the current geopolitical context, per the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Environment Assembly meets biennially to frame plans for future developments and mechanisms on an international scale, for environmental legislation.

Its frameworks, consolidating resolutions calling for actionable and implementable legal measures concerning climate change, global warming, industrial sectors, carbon footprints, and other critical facets alike, help establish leadership and intergovernmental action to successfully reach the target of achieving all SDGs and therefore ensure our planet's wellbeing for centuries. In 2012, world leaders called for the UN Environmental Programme to be strengthened as a legal recommendatory body, per the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. This marked a new age where climate change was at the centre of the international community's prerogative and was given the same level of importance as humanitarian and security issues worldwide.

The establishment of the Environment Programme was the fruit of multiple years of five United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinated efforts between countries and their representatives who were advocates of a green energy transition, the preservation of life and ecosystems, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Environment Assembly sets the global environmental agenda in cooperation with UN institutions and multilateral environmental agreements. The current structure of the UN bears witness to the Assembly as the governing body of the UN Environment Programme with a universal membership, comprising 193 Member States (excluding the State of Palestine, the Holy See, and other States yet to be recognised as sovereign by the UN, such as but not limited to Taiwan, Kosovo, and Nagorno-Karabakh). Throughout the year, Member States engage in formal discussions under open-ended meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (collaboration led by the UN Environment Bureau permanently). The

Committee contributes to preparing the UNEP's agenda and advises the Assembly on policies and decisions according to their environmental feasibility and prospects of being adopted. They simultaneously play a partial role in overseeing their implementation and changes to the Assembly's functioning structure.

INTRODUCTION TO THE **AGENDA**

In this committee, we focus on the rising threat of marine pollution with a special emphasis on Southeast Asia. Marine pollution has been a major concern for environmental specialists due to its detrimental effects on both human and marine existence. There are a multitude of ways the oceans are being polluted, including but not limited to oil spills, plastic debris and noise pollution.

The southeastern region of Asia is considered to have the highest levels of pollution in its oceans, Over 80 % of the region's reefs are currently at risk from numerous threats, including overfishing, coastal development, marine pollution, aquaculture and agriculture, and climate change resulting in significant species declines. Additionally, Southeast Asia has among the highest levels of marine plastic pollution globally, with Indonesia (10 %), the Philippines (6 %), Vietnam (6 %), Thailand (3 %), and Malaysia (3 %) estimated to cumulatively contribute almost a third (30 %) of marine plastic pollution to the world's oceans, around 11 million metric tons of plastic waste ends up in our oceans annually, accounting for a staggering 85% of all marine pollution. Additionally, ¾ of the urban population in the region is reliant on the coasts. If this trajectory continues, the total weight of plastic in our oceans is projected to surpass that of all fish by 2050. Hence a dire need to address this pressing issue through various frameworks, for the betterment of both marine and human life.

The ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris strives to effectively address the proliferation of debris in the Indian Ocean. To tackle the transboundary nature of marine debris, a regular regional policy dialogue is organized, reflecting the necessity of a collective approach despite the worldwide significance of the issue. Furthermore, ASEAN aims to foster collaboration between national authorities and businesses, encouraging the formulation and promotion of criteria for product sustainability and circularity. This initiative seeks to stimulate the market for sustainable products and secondary raw materials while concurrently addressing the unsustainable usage and disposal of single-use plastic products.

Adopted in 1981 and amended in 1994, the East Asian Seas Action Plan aims to prot-

ect the East Asian region's marine and coastal ecosystem for the benefit of current and future generations. Its execution is supervised by the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), whose secretariat is the Regional Coordinating Unit, which was established by the UN Environment Programme in 1993. The Action Plan's main objectives are to evaluate the condition of the maritime environment, organise actions for efficient execution, and deal with issues such as capacity building, long-term monitoring, resource utilisation, ecosystem rehabilitation, pollution monitoring, and quality assurance.

The existing avenues to manage the extreme ocean pollution of the region are far from flawless and while quite comprehensive they need to be adapted to fit the drastic increase in both the consequences and reasons for marine pollution. Additionally, agents striving towards environmental recovery must be innovative in addressing, specifically, Southeast Asia’s increasing proportion of global marine pollution.

KEY TERMS

Marine Debris

Any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and, directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment.

Plastic Pollution

The accumulation of synthetic plastic products in the environment to the point that they create problems for wildlife and their habitats as well as for human populations.

Microplastics

Extremely small pieces of plastic debris in the environment resulting from the disposal and breakdown of consumer products and industrial waste.

Ocean Acidification

A reduction in the pH of the ocean over an extended period of time, caused primarily by the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO_2) from the atmosphere.

Nutrient Pollution

Form of water pollution, refers to contamination by excessive inputs of nutrients.

Toxins

Substances created by plants and animals that are poisonous (toxic) to humans. Toxins may also include some medicines that are helpful in small doses but poisonous in large amounts.

Underwater Noise

Most of a ship's underwater noise while underway is generated by the propeller via a process called 'cavitation, where the bubbles created by the propeller's movement continually and collectively collapse and emit noise.

RELEVANT EVENTS TIMELINE

January 2018 - Sanchi Oil Tanker Collision

The National Iranian Tanker Company's oil tanker Sanchi, registered in Panama, was carrying condensate oil cargo as it set sail from Assaluyeh, Iran, to Daesan, Republic of Korea, on January 6, 2018.

Concurrently, bulk sorghum was being transported by the Chinese bulk carrier "CF Crystal" from Kalama, US, to Dongguan, China.

Both vessels collided off Shanghai while they were sailing in the East China Sea. Condensate oil leaked out of Sanchi's cargo tanks as a result of the collision, setting off fires and explosions.

On January 14, 2018, the ship sank after burning for more than a week.

With only three remains discovered and 29 crew members still missing, all 32 crew members—including 30 Iranians and 2 Bangladeshis—are thought to have died in the accident. On Crystal, the 23 Chinese crew members were saved.

Amidst one of the worst oil spills in over 30 years, the Sanchi sank after burning for almost a week.

The majority of the condensate, which is an extremely light and highly flammable crude oil, that the Sanchi was transporting—111,000 tonnes or 810,000 barrels—evaporated following the fire. The fuel storage tanks at Sanchi contained an estimated 1,941 metric tons of HFO.

Thus, the mishap caused four distinct slicks to form, encompassing an area of 100 square kilometres, nearly the same size as Paris. This caused damage to the region's beaches and fishing sector.

Late in February, the Japanese Coast Guard warned that oil had probably reached even the islands in southern Japan from the tanker.

March 2019: Pollution in River Kim Kim

More than 2,700 people were hospitalised during a significant pollution disaster at Sungai Kim Kim, yet some Pasir Gudang locals now live in constant terror of another incident.

The country was taken aback on March 7, 2019, when numerous schoolchildren and canteen workers passed out with nausea, vomiting, and dizziness.

110 schools near the river were forced to close, and 2,775 people—mostly students—were brought to the hospital. To remove the 900 tonnes of toxic sludge from the area, 1,500 tonnes of river water were required.

MAY 2021: Sri Lanka Cargo Ship Fire

On May 20, 2021, the cargo ship X-PRESS PEARL caught fire about nine nautical miles (16 kilometres) off the coast of Colombo's commercial shipping harbour. The ship had 1,486 containers on board that were carrying 25 tonnes of nitric acid, caustic soda, solid sodium methoxide solution, cosmetics, methanol, and vinyl acetate, along with other cargo.

The fire persisted until the end of May 2021, during which time the container ship heard many little explosions. For almost two weeks, the Indian Navy assisted the Sri Lankan Coast Guard, Air Force, and Navy as they battled nonstop to suppress the fire.

By June 1, 2021, the situation had been brought under control, and the fire had been confined, even though the ship continued to produce small explosions and thick clouds of smoke.

Damaged containers, microplastics—roughly 3 billion tiny plastic pellets—chemicals, and other hazardous, toxic substances were released into the sea as a result of the fire. These materials affected large swathes of the western coast, primarily the districts of Gampaha, Kalutara, and Colombo.

The shoreline, ecosystem, and natural marine environment sustained significant harm from chemical spills and plastic pellets, including damage to several well-known resorts and tourist destinations. Pellets of plastic were heavily deposited on the beaches, and there was some apparent oil slick and microplastic in the water.

CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1: The Plastic Menace in the Philippines

With its gorgeous islands and abundant marine life, the Philippines is confronted with an increasingly serious environmental issue: plastic waste. The population is growing and urbanization is accelerating, which has increased demand for plastic items and led to an alarming rise in plastic trash. The country's marine ecosystems suffer greatly when this trash is improperly disposed of, especially in rivers.

Plastic waste has become an annoyance to coastal areas that were previously brimming with a variety of marine life. The problem is not limited to visual pollution; it affects marine ecosystems. A growing number of endangered animals, including marine birds and sea turtles, are ingesting plastic particles, thinking them to be food. The entire marine environment is impacted as a result of the effects that cascade down the food chain.

In addition, coral reefs, which are essential to preserving biodiversity, are in danger. In addition to causing physical harm to the corals, the plastic waste pollutes the surrounding water and jeopardizes the health of these delicate ecosystems. The once-thriving coral gardens are currently in danger of disappearing, which will have a long-term effect on the natural balance of the area.

Enforcement of waste management rules is still a problem, despite efforts to solve the issue. The extent of plastic pollution necessitates a multifaceted strategy that includes international cooperation in addition to stronger laws. The necessity of a regional effort to address the underlying causes of plastic pollution is highlighted by the interconnectedness of maritime habitats.

One promising development in the battle against plastic pollution is the involvement of the community. Local campaigns and grassroots groups are encouraging appropriate trash disposal and increasing public awareness of the harm that plastic does to marine life. Education initiatives that highlight the contribution that each person plays in protecting the nation's natural assets are enabling communities to take an active role in marine conservation.

Case Study 2: Oil Spill Crisis in the Straits of Malacca

An ongoing and imminent threat to the Straits of Malacca, a vital maritime route between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, is oil spills. The enormous amount of marine traffic that uses this vital waterway increases the possibility of accidents or leaks that result in oil spills. Recent events have brought to light the devastating effects that oil spills may have on the environment and the economy, which has prompted a more thorough investigation of the intricate problems that these spills present in this vital area.

Oil spills in the Straits of Malacca have a significant and wide-ranging effect on the ecosystem. Oil spills damage marine life and ecosystems, mostly affecting coastal people who depend on fishing as their main source of income. The complex web of life in mangrove ecosystems is especially susceptible to the harmful impacts of oil, which is why these ecosystems are vital for biodiversity and coastal protection.

Addressing oil spills poses a multitude of difficulties. Inadequate regional cooperation impedes prompt spill containment and cleaning, causing environmental harm to worsen. The settlement process is further complicated by negotiating the legal difficulties involving culpability and compensation for impacted parties. These difficulties highlight the necessity of an all-encompassing regional emergency response strategy that entails the cooperation of the impacted nations.

The Straits of Malacca is a vital worldwide commerce route, which makes the need for efficient reaction systems all the more urgent. Improving marine monitoring is necessary to quickly identify and prevent oil spills. Putting money into cutting-edge technology like drones, satellite tracking, and artificial intelligence can improve the area's capacity to keep an eye on any spills and react quickly.

International cooperation as well as technological innovation are needed to handle the complexity of oil spills in the Straits of Malacca. Ensuring a just and effective settlement process requires advocating for international agreements to handle responsibility and compensation concerns. Through the adoption of a comprehensive strategy that integrates cutting-edge technology, regional collaboration, and legal structures, the area may endeavour to alleviate the consequences of oil spills and maintain the ecological balance of the Straits of Malacca.

Case Study 3: Eutrophication in the Gulf of Thailand

A subtle but sneaky danger to the Gulf of Thailand's azure waters and spectacular coral reefs is eutrophication. Algae overgrowth is a result of excessive nutrient discharge from a variety of sources, including industrial processes, urban areas, and agriculture. This seemingly innocuous procedure has far-reaching effects that put the

sustainability and well-being of the marine ecosystems in the Gulf of Thailand in jeopardy.

The high amounts of nutrients in coastal waterways are caused by nutrient runoff, which arises from uncontrolled agricultural activities and industrial waste. The expansion of algal blooms is fueled by this nutrient inflow, which transforms formerly clear waterways into murky expanses dominated by tiny creatures. The effects are dire because these algal blooms shade and outcompete vital creatures, which has a detrimental effect on marine life.

Algal blooms have consequences that go beyond beauty. Because of the extra organic matter brought on by these blooms, the water becomes less oxygenated, resulting in "dead zones" where marine life cannot survive. Fish numbers decrease and vital habitats deteriorate as a result of this oxygen loss, which upsets the delicate environmental balance.

The issue of eutrophication in the Gulf of Thailand is not limited to a local level; it has worldwide consequences. Overloading nutrients poses a threat to coral reefs, which are important components of the world's marine ecology and hotspots for biodiversity. Beyond band-aid fixes, a comprehensive strategy is needed to address this problem.

One of the most important tactics for controlling land-based activities and lowering nutrient runoff is integrated coastal zone management. Using cutting-edge technologies for fertilizer management and promoting sustainable farming practices are essential elements of this strategy. Monitoring devices should also be put in place to keep tabs on the Gulf of Thailand's oxygen concentrations, nitrogen levels, and algae blooms. Early warning systems can alert communities and relevant authorities about new risks of eutrophication, allowing for prompt action to lessen the effects.

Case Study 4: Illegal Fishing Practices in the South China Sea

In addition to serving as a theatre for territorial conflicts, the South China Sea is a geopolitical hotspot where IUU (illegal, unreported, and unregulated) fishing is a persistent environmental problem. The area, which is abundant in marine resources, is the scene of widespread IUU fishing operations that not only deplete these resources but also heighten tensions between coastal governments.

Unauthorised vessels that take advantage of precious fish stocks and damaging fishing methods like blast fishing are examples of illicit, commercial, and recreational (IUU) fishing operations. Engaging in such acts has significant and varied repercussions. Fish populations drop, and the delicate balance of marine life is upset

as a result of overfishing, endangering the sustainability of marine ecosystems. Utilising harmful methods worsens the effects on the environment by destroying coral reefs and other ecosystems.

The conflicting territorial claims made by South China Sea coastal governments complicate the situation. States may choose to ignore IUU fishing operations linked to boats that serve their interests, which would result in a lack of regulatory control and enforcement. This circumstance underscores the interconnectedness of environmental and geopolitical concerns in the region and adds to diplomatic disagreements and strained relations.

However, IUU fishing has serious humanitarian ramifications in addition to environmental ones. Alongside IUU fishing are typically exploitative labour practices, when crews face hazardous working conditions and put their safety at risk. The issue's transboundary character highlights the necessity of teamwork in addressing its humanitarian and environmental components.

Increasing regional collaboration in marine surveillance appears to be a crucial tactic for identifying and discouraging illicit fishing operations. Using technology-driven solutions improves enforcement capabilities and gives a way to hold offenders responsible. Examples of these solutions include satellite monitoring and vessel tracking. Establishing and enforcing multilateral agreements addressing IUU fishing through dialogue facilitation among the South China Sea coastal governments is essential for promoting cooperation and tackling the underlying causes of the problem.

Marine pollution is a serious transboundary problem that demands an international response from all parties, and international law has a strong hold on regulating it. The foundation of international collaboration on environmental issues, especially those affecting marine ecosystems, is this legal structure. When it comes to drafting and carrying out agreements and treaties that address environmental issues, such as marine pollution, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a key player.

RELEVANT UN TREATIES & INTERNATIONAL LAW

Overview of International Law

In the framework of environmental protection, international law is essential for promoting international cooperation and controlling human activities that have an impact on the environment. It offers a thorough framework for the drafting of agreements and treaties that set norms and regulations for reducing environmental degradation. State sovereignty and the understanding that environmental problems necessitate coordinated action are carefully balanced. The fusion of treaties, conventions, and customary international law has led to the establishment of standards requiring states to address common environmental issues.

The idea of common but distinct duties is one of the cornerstones of international environmental law. This concept acknowledges that although governments have a shared duty to safeguard the environment, the scope of such duties may vary depending on things like economic capability and prior contributions to environmental deterioration. This complex strategy makes sure that countries bear an equitable portion of the cost of environmental preservation.

The complex problem of marine pollution has led to the drafting of several international treaties and agreements. These accords offer a legislative framework that enables countries to work together to protect the maritime environment. Notable agreements comprise:

MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships)

MARPOL is a set of laws that was first established in 1973 and has since undergone amendments. Its main goal is to prevent and manage pollution from ships. It covers a wide range of marine contaminants, including sewage, chemicals, and oil. A crucial international commitment to reducing marine pollution is embodied in the treaty. MARPOL is an all-encompassing framework that classifies pollutants and establishes standards for their avoidance, addressing various maritime pollution sources. For example, MARPOL's Annex I addresses oil pollution and establishes guidelines for ship oil discharge. Annex III covers hazardous materials transported by ship in packaged form, whereas Annex II deals with toxic liquids. Annex V deals with preventing pollution from ship waste, whereas Annex IV controls sewage discharges.

UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)

UNCLOS, which was established in 1982, provides the legal framework for the use and protection of the world's seas. It describes maritime zones in detail, governments' rights and obligations, and the necessity of protecting the marine environment. UNCLOS is becoming more and more important as Southeast Asia struggles with expanding maritime activity. UNCLOS, sometimes known as the "Constitution for the Oceans," provides guidelines for protecting and sustainably using marine resources. It outlines a state's duties and rights in several marine domains, such as the high seas, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone (EEZ). In addressing marine environmental issues, the convention emphasizes the value of international cooperation and calls for the preservation and protection of the marine environment.

London Convention and Protocol

The London Convention, which was established in 1972, and its Protocol from 1996 govern the disposal of trash at sea. The Protocol, which at first included all materials, focuses on marine pollution by outlawing the disposal of garbage and other materials, demonstrating the world's commitment to ocean health. To protect the marine environment, the London Convention and Protocol provide a framework for controlling trash disposal at sea. The Convention divides materials into many types and outlines the circumstances in which disposing of them at sea is acceptable. The 1996 Protocol emphasizes the need for vigilance to safeguard the maritime environment by outlawing the public disposal of all liquid waste and some solid wastes.

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

The Basel Convention regulates the transboundary flow of hazardous wastes, with an emphasis on environmentally sound management to prevent negative impacts on human health and the environment, although it is not only focused on marine pollution. Its effects on marine ecosystems are especially relevant when considering Southeast Asia. The Basel Convention strives to reduce the production of hazardous wastes and encourage ecologically sound management by addressing the transboundary transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes. Although the convention's primary goal is to stop hazardous wastes from negatively affecting the environment and public health, it also tangentially helps to stop marine pollution. Southeast Asian nations, which are rapidly industrializing and urbanizing, need to adhere to the Basel Convention's principles to manage hazardous wastes sustainably and avoid their impact on marine environments.

REGIONAL CHALLENGES AND INITIATIVES IN **SEA**

Due to its long coastlines, abundant biodiversity, and strategic location along maritime trade routes, Southeast Asia has particular problems with marine pollution. Numerous significant rivers, such as the Ganges and Mekong, flow through the area and release large amounts of plastic and other pollutants into the ocean. In addition, the rapidly developing economies of nations like Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia have accelerated urbanization and industrialization, which has increased the amount of pollutants entering marine environments.

As one of the world's top suppliers of marine plastic trash, Southeast Asia faces serious challenges due to plastic pollution. The problem is made worse by improper handling of plastic garbage, a lacklustre infrastructure for disposing of waste, and the widespread use of single-use plastics. Adopting sustainable practices and creative solutions is crucial as countries in the area struggle to strike a balance between environmental preservation and economic development.

In response to these difficulties, UNEP has launched several initiatives and programs targeted at reducing marine pollution in Southeast Asia in cooperation with regional organizations and member nations. These programs concentrate on increasing awareness, developing capabilities, and putting into action workable steps to lessen pollution. UNEP, for instance, has collaborated with nations to create and carry out national action plans aimed at reducing marine plastic litter. Usually, these strategies combine public awareness efforts, legislative actions, and the advancement of environmentally friendly waste management techniques.

To address common environmental concerns, UNEP has also assisted in the creation of regional cooperation institutions. The East Asian and South China Seas are part of the Regional Seas Programme, which gives nations in the area a forum to work together on the management and preservation of maritime habitats. Through this initiative, UNEP promotes technology transfer, information sharing, and the creation of cooperative plans to tackle marine pollution.

QARMA

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

What measures can be taken by local authorities to mitigate marine debris in the Indian Ocean on a - regional level?

How can developing nations work towards enhancing technology to combat the continuous growth of marine debris

How can the countries present Encourage the use of eco-friendly technologies and materials to minimise the generation of marine debris?

How can regional collaboration be enhanced to tackle cross-border issues contributing to marine pollution in Southeast Asia?

In what ways can public awareness and education campaigns be leveraged to promote responsible waste management and reduce marine pollution?

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of procedure refer to the formal conduct delegates are expected to maintain during the conference. It is essential to adhere to the rules and maintain decorum for the smooth flow of the committee. For this conference, we will be adhering to the UNA-USA format of rules of procedure.

Begin formal session
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allotted country" puts forward a motion to begin the formal session.

Setting the Agenda
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allotted country" puts forward a motion to set the agenda as "Agenda of the committee".

Roll Call
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allotted country" raises a motion to begin a roll call. When your allotted country is called upon during the roll call, you have two options either say "present and voting" or simply say "present". (Note: If a delegate says "present and voting", they cannot abstain from voting on the resolution at the end of committee.)

General Speaker's List
Committee generally begins formal debate by starting the 'GSL' (General Speaker's list). It serves the purpose of allowing a delegate to express their stance on the agenda. A GSL is non-exhaustive.
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allotted country" raises a motion to establish the general speakers' list

Moderated Caucus
This motion can be raised when the committee wants to debate on a specific topic.
How to raise it?: The delegate of "your allotted country" raises a motion to suspend formal session/debate and move into a Moderated Caucus on "topic" for a time period of "x" minutes allotting "x" minute per speaker. In case a delegate does not get recognized to speak, a delegate can send in your point through substantive chit.

Format of Substantive Chits

Substantive chits are written as follows;
To: The Executive Board (may be abbreviated as EB)
From Delegate of: (your allocated country)

Unmoderated Caucus

This motion is proposed when delegates wish to discuss the committee's status among themselves and further evaluate their next actions.
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allotted country" raises a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated Caucus for a time period of "x" minutes.

Points

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry

This point is raised by a delegate to clarify anything regarding the rules of procedure or to know the status of the committee (For example: to know which delegate is speaking next/ if the EB is accepting more speakers)
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allocated country" raises a point of a parliamentary inquiry.

Point of Personal Privilege

This point is raised by a delegate to address a personal issue. (For example: to ask another delegate to repeat a point they made in their speech/to be excused from the committee)
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allocated country" raises a point of personal privilege.

Point of Order

This point can be raised by a delegate to point out logical or factual inaccuracies in the speeches of other delegates.
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allocated country" raises a point of order, Factual inaccuracy/ Logical Fallacy (either one).

Point of Information

This is raised when a delegate wants to ask questions about another delegate's speech.
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allocated country" raises a point of information. If you ask a question and are still not satisfied with the answer, you can raise a follow-up question right after the delegate answers.
How to raise it? : The delegate of "your allocated country" wants to raise a follow-up question *(Note: This point can be denied if the Chairperson feels so)*.
If a delegate wants to ask a question <u>via chit</u>, you can use this format -
POINT OF INFORMATION
TO: Delegate of "country you want to question"
VIA: Executive Board
FROM: Delegate of "your allotted country"
state the question

Working Paper

A working paper is the preliminary draft of solutions that the committee comes up with and is usually turned in and presented by the blocs on the second day. They serve as a basis for delegates to see which blocs have stances that align with theirs and to subsequently merge for drafting the final resolution.

Working papers have no strict format. That is, operative and preambulatory clauses are not required, and the paper can also be presented in a series of rough points.

Sponsors are delegates who have contributed the most towards writing the working paper. For presentation and Q&A, any delegate from the bloc can come up to present the paper and answer relevant questions.

Draft Resolution

A draft resolution or resolution, contains all the solutions that committee wants to introduce in the form of a formal document that will be discussed and put to vote in front of the committee. If passed, this acts as a set of suggestions and recommendations to those who agree with it on the issue at hand.

Sponsors are those who have majorly written the resolution, whose countries must agree with every clause and amendment. The number of sponsors is usually kept between 2 and 4, this will be informed to the committee on the day of the conference.

Signatories are those who would like to see the resolution discussed in front of the committee. A signatory does not necessarily agree with the resolution, just wants to see it be debated. A delegate can be a signatory to more than one resolution. Resolutions must have at least 1/3rd of the committee's strength as signatories to be able to present them to the committee.

An amendment to a resolution is in the form of an edit, addition, or deletion to the resolution that has been presented to the committee. This is usually sent to the chairs after the resolution has been discussed and through a motion, the committee is in an amendment session. If more than 1/3rd the number of a resolution's total number of operative clauses are accepted as amendments, the resolution will be scrapped. When an amendment is presented to the chairs, the sponsors of the resolution will be given the option to either accept it as friendly or unfriendly. A friendly amendment is automatically accepted, and the content that was aimed to be changed, added or deleted is done as such. An unfriendly amendment means that the committee will vote, to decide whether or not the change shall be made. This is done through a simple majority vote.

1) (To introduce Resolution) the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to introduce *RESOLUTION NAME*
2) (Amendments) The delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to move into the amendment session for *RESOLUTION NAME*
3) (To vote on the resolution) the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to table the *RESOLUTION NAME* for the voting procedure.

Resolution Format

(Name of resolution)
Sponsors:
Signatories:
Topic: XYZ
Committee name,
(Preambulatory Clauses)
1. Every preambulatory clause ends with a comma (,)
(Operative clauses)
1. Every Operative clause ends with a semicolon (;)
2. Every sub-clause to a resolution should end with a comma (,) till and unless it is the last sub-clause to the main clause, it shall end with a semicolon (;)
3. Every main clause before starting with a sub-clause should have a colon (:)
4. Full stop at the end of the resolution.

Voting

Voting is of 2 types, procedural and substantive. Procedural voting requires a simple majority, which is set at 50%+1 of committee strength. For example, if a committee has 100 people, the simple majority is set at 51 votes. Procedural Voting is used in cases such as voting upon motions. Substantive voting requires a 2/3rds majority. This is primarily used in voting upon a resolution. For example, if a committee has 100 members, the majority will be set at 67 votes.

Press Conference

The questions may range from matters of foreign policy, the agenda itself or controversial actions by the respective nations of the delegates, with the intended purpose being to test the depth of the research and knowledge of the delegates.

FURTHER READING

https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/marine-pollution/

https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/marine-plastic-pollution

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722038013

https://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/beyond-borders-collaborative-solutions-plastic-pollution-southeast-asia

https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/working-regional-seas/regional-seas-programmes/east-asian#:~:text=Aimed%20at%20protecting%20the%20East,adopted%20in%20April%201981%20and

https://safety4sea.com/cm-sanchi-the-worlds-worst-oil-tanker-disaster-in-decades/

https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/03/07/3-years-on-residents-still-fear-pollution-at-sungai-kim-kim/

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